Abdul Nazar Madani in a good private hospital at Coimbatore for taking Angiogram and permission has also been granted to allow one of his family members, preferably his wife, to attend to his needs in the hospital.

The State Government has reported that Shri Madani is allowed interviews with his blood relatives as per the Prison Rules. The State Government has also denied the allegation of Shri Madani's torture in jail.

Growth in tourist traffic

*250. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in June, 2001 there was a negative growth of 3.5 per cent in tourist traffic in India; and

(b) if so, what was the targeted growth for June, 2001, and what steps Government have taken to ensure that henceforth growth targets are not only achieved but actual performance exceeds the targets?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) As per the latest estimate available, there was a decline of 2 per cent in foreign tourist arrival in the month of June 2001 as compared to June 2000. However, in the first seven months *i.e.* from January to July of 2001 as compared to the same period of the previous year, there has been a growth in tourist arrivals of 3.1%.

(b) Month-wise targets for tourist arrivals are not fixed. The objective of the Government is to promote tourism and to increase the tourist inflow into the country. The various efforts made by the Government to promote tourism in India include development and improvement of tourist facilities, infrastructure development, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries, use of information technology to provide facilities to tourists and encouraging private investment in tourism sector.